

Why I Started Covering My Hair



My Journey Into 1 Corinthians 11

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A ministry of Molding Into A Lady

All Scripture is taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

Bible Study on “Why I Started Covering My Hair”

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You can find Renee blogging about this topic, and other matters of the faith and Christian living, at <http://moldingintoalady.blogspot.com/>.

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INTRODUCTION

I did not grow up covering my head. I do not recall anyone I personally know, that did such a thing. This is a new “way” for me. When I started covering my hair, I felt “all alone.” After much searching, I was able to find other women, of the Christian faith, who did so.

I hope that all who read this work, will be blessed by it. I desire to encourage and challenge, in the Lord. It is my desire to help my fellow sisters in Christ in their walk with Him. If the lessons He has given me can be an asset to you, then I am grateful!

Though I am new to this “practice” in my life, I have learned so much. Due to outward pressures, and personal desires, I have mused much upon this topic. Through study, meditation, discussions, and experiences, I have come up with this writing.

If you do read this book, please read to the end. I know that there may be parts with which you may disagree; but please, hear me all the way to the end. I would greatly appreciate it.

Do not disregard the message because of the messenger; discard the message if it is contrary to the Lord. I *am* passionate about this matter, just as I would be about any matter I see discussed in Scripture; *especially pertaining to women*. Please know that I am *honored* by *any* and *all* who read what I write.

I humbly write, knowing that in me dwelleth no good thing, save my Saviour. He is the reason I am where I am today. If it were not for Him...I would for ever be lost.

WHY I STARTED COVERING MY HAIR

This subject has been on my mind, *well*, ever since I started covering my hair. I wanted to share with people the reason for my new practice. I wanted to write out on paper what I find incapable, many times, to formulate into words when I speak. (I tend to “freeze up” when confrontations arise, and find myself at a loss for words...Then, later, I go through the “Why didn’t I say ‘such-and-such?’ Aargh! I wish I would have *remembered* to say ‘this!’...”) I want something from which to reference later down the road.

I knew that the whole “head covering” topic was one of slight contention, but I had *no idea* how deep that bone of contention ran! For me, (most of the time), whenever I saw a lady who had any kind of covering on her hair, immediately I thought of meekness. I thought of a woman who was industrious, kind, thoughtful, gentle, keeper at home, etc...Definitely a woman from whom I needed to learn a thing or two! The Proverbs 31 woman, Mary, Martha, Jesus’ mother Mary, Mary Magdalene, Hannah, Sarah, Leah, Rachel, Tabitha, Dorcas, Priscilla, the Bride of Christ...All these women came to mind.

Whenever I have viewed Biblical dramas (whether on the screen or in-person); whenever I portrayed someone from Biblical times in a church play; whenever I saw pictures/paintings/drawings of women of Biblical times: I saw God-fearing women who were wearing head coverings. It never seemed questioned, or voiced in disagreement, the depiction of those Biblical women. There never seemed to be any issue, until I started practicing it.

There were some friends that never saw me any different. Sure, they were instantly curious...Who would not be? Someone with whom you are close, suddenly adds to/takes away from their life a habit, a *conspicuous* one, and it will make you scratch your head. If you are like me, I want to go and find out the reason. I am curious. Something of this “magnitude” would *really* stir up the investigator in me!

“Magnitude,” I say. I purposely chose that word. Since the paradigm shift between what is considered holy and unholy, proper and improper, righteous and unrighteous, culturally-relevant and not culturally-relevant, a lot has changed...In the world, and also in the churches. From my research, it never seemed to be a problem for a woman to come into the church meetings with some sort of covering on her head, until the mid-twentieth century. (Sure, there are *always* exceptions to the rule. However, by and large, ladies that desired to follow the Bible, covered their heads.) By that time, the coverings had shifted from the typical veil one imagines from Bible days, to a little doily or pinned-on hat by the early twentieth century.

Nowadays, it is *uncommon* to see a woman with *any* kind of covering on her head...Natural or otherwise.

These days, if you were to even use the common-held view of what 1 Corinthians 11:1-16 is discussing, and say that women are to have *long* hair as her natural, God-given covering...Well, be ready for an argument. People will typically say it is a matter between a husband and a wife; it is a matter of preference; it is none of your business...The list continues: All are ways to deflect from what Christ says through Paul. "There is simply *no room* for legalism." Yet, to even say, (these days), that there *is indeed* a call, *from God*, to have holy living standards (which will be contrary to that of the wisdom of man and the way of the world), you will be labeled a "Pharisee...A Legalist..." (By the way, to be "legalistic" is to believe that one must earn their salvation by obedience.)

To even believe, because of the certainty of God and His Word, that there *is* one set of irrefutable standards for believers; that those standards are then distinguished between man, woman, child, parents, husband, wife, bosses, leaders, etc.; that God wants women to behave a certain way, and men a certain way; that God has clearly defined roles for each person; that God has clearly defined qualifications for pastors/bishops/elders and deacons; that God clearly distinguishes who can do what; that God *does* give liberty in certain areas, and certain areas *only*: and, those liberties are *not* to be used as reasons to sin, nor to be cared more for than for the well-being of a weak sibling in Christ...Causes a line to be drawn. Surely, there *is* grace. Indeed, there *is* mercy. Truly, there *is* to be patience and longsuffering. Yet, charity speaks truth, whereby the soul is redeemed and set on a straight, safe, and sure course.

I started covering, because I could not be persuaded otherwise any longer. My husband pursued the Lord's answer of this topic, because of his curiosity: "Why are there various 'Christian' groups practicing this thing?" He wanted to understand their reasoning, so as to no longer be ignorant. Taking the Bible, and the Bible alone, he studied. Once he concluded *his* findings, he sought out other men: of the past, and of the present. What he found out was a bit revealing; only because we were led to believe otherwise, due to our lack of study.

The Head

If we were to base this practice, solely on the history of the church, we would actually be in the majority. For since the first century A.D., Christian women covered their hair in reverence to God and their husbands. They covered because they wanted to testify to the watching angels that they were in submission to God and their head (husband). They were seeking to be obedient to Jesus.

If we were to base this practice, solely on the irrefutability of Scripture, we would be in the majority, too. We saw, when we studied the particular passage of Scripture in its context (as well as other passages in the Bible that used this word in its various applications), that *the* covering Paul was referencing *was not* a woman's *hair*. Indeed, God blessed women with hair (when, if not due to the affects of sin in the body, naturally grows long and glorious) as *a* natural covering. Let us just look at the passage:

“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ. Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you. But I would have you know, that the **head** of every man is Christ; and the **head** of the woman is the man; and the **head** of Christ is God. Every man praying or prophesying, having his **head** covered, dishonoureth his **head**. But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her **head** uncovered dishonoureth her **head**: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered. For a man indeed ought not to cover his **head**, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man. For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man. For this cause ought the woman to have power on her **head** because of the angels. Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God. Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered? Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering. But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.”

(1 Corinthians 11:1-16)

I have highlighted all the times “head” is used in this passage. I want to go through this passage, and show you what I have seen, as I have mulled over this matter ever since I started practicing it in November of 2012 A.D. I will do the best I can at explaining *my* position. I hope that whatever your conclusion is on it, that it would be because you have *honestly*, and *wholeheartedly*, looked at the Scripture, rightly divided it, and have been guided by God's Spirit and none else. For, we know that God will never contradict Himself; we know that there is only one truth; we know that God wants His children following Him, together; we know that there is

only *one* understanding to be had in regards to whether or not to practice an exterior head covering. The conclusion upon which one rests *does* matter: for, obedience to Christ shows love for Him; and, obedience to Christ witnesses to the world the truth of God's Word.

1. "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ;..."

Head (Leader) of the man = Christ

2. "and the head of the woman is the man;..."

Head (Leader) of the woman = the man

3. "and the head of Christ is God..."

Head (Leader) of Christ = God

4. "Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head..."

- a) Man covering his head dishonors his head = Man covering Christ dishonors Christ
- b) Man covering his head dishonors his head = Man covering his head, the physical domain of his brain, dishonors Christ
- c) Man covering his head dishonors his head = Man covering Christ dishonors his head, the physical domain of his brain
- d) Man covering his head dishonors his head = Man covering his head, the physical domain of his brain, dishonors his head, the physical domain of his brain

I chose answer (b).

5. "But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered..."

- a) Woman uncovering her head dishonors her head = Woman uncovering man dishonors man
- b) Woman uncovering her head dishonors her head = Woman uncovering her head, the physical domain of her brain, dishonors man
- c) Woman uncovering her head dishonors her head = Woman uncovering man dishonors her head, the physical domain of her brain
- d) Woman uncovering her head dishonors her head = Woman uncovering her head, the physical domain of her brain, dishonors her head, the physical domain of her brain

I chose answer (b).

6. “For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man. For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man...”
- a) Man is not to cover his head (the physical domain of his brain), because he is the image and glory of God
 - b) Man is not to cover Christ, because he is the image and glory of God

I chose answer (a).

7. “For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels...”
- a) Woman is to have power (authority) on her head (physical domain of her brain) because of the angels
 - b) Woman is to have power (authority) on her head (the man) because of the angels

I chose answer (a).

Now, before anyone has a stick in their craw regarding the placing/role of the woman and the man, let us go further into this passage and see what the Lord says through Paul:

“Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God...”

It seems evident to me that God is ensuring that men do not take opportunity to “lord over” their women, because the women are having a covering over their head, and the men do not have to practice such a thing. It also seems evident that God is showing the women that they are *not* inferior to the men. It would be easy for any proud person to lord over one that is put under their authority, but God reminds both parties that they both are of God: man and woman cannot exist without the other, and they complete one another.

Now, the next bit of Scripture is where it gets feisty with folks. Many times, as I had done, people just read through the passage without even considering *what* they are reading. They do not stop and ponder, or *muse*, upon God’s Word. They do not look, truly look, upon the context: *grammar, to whom it was written, what was written, when it was written, and why it was written*. Too often, all of us Christians breeze through the Bible as though it is the daily news: just looking for the headlines, not really reading the story in its entirety. Let us look at this “controversial” part:

“Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered? Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering...”

All previous to this portion, Paul was making it clear that the men were not to cover their heads, for it would dishonor their Head: Jesus Christ. He was also making it clear that the women were to *cover* their heads, for to do otherwise would shame their heads: the men (whether that be their husbands, their fathers if they be unmarried, or God if they have no father/husband). Now, it seems, Paul goes back to what is evident even in nature: men with a covering is shameful, and women without a covering is shameful.

We all know these things to be true. It is noticeable when a man has long hair...*Because it is not natural*. Two thoughts that come to mind are: *rebel* and *effeminate*. On the same token, it is noticeable when a woman does not have long hair...*Because it is not natural*. Here are some thoughts that come to mind regarding women and short/no hair: *illness, rebel, trying to be like a man, bossy, independent*. Granted, for many women, their health prevents them from having long hair. Also, some women seem to grow hair easily, and at great length, rather than some whose hair grows slowly, and not nearly as long. Nevertheless, because of sin (whether by choice, illness, genetics), when a woman does not have long hair, it is seen as *unnatural*.

On the flip side, when men have their hair short, it is seen as that which is the natural way. It is seen as masculine, *manly*, handsome, etc. When a woman has long hair, it is seen as feminine, *glorious*, beautiful, etc.

He uses the *natural* design to bolster the *spiritual* one. Just as when defending marriage, one goes back to the *natural creation* to bolster the *spiritual aspects* of that physical union: A man and woman who are married, are an *outward manifestation of the spiritual union between Jesus Christ and the Church, His Bride*. To support the union between the same sexes would be in direct opposition to Jesus Christ and the Church; it would be a perversion and rebellion to the picture God is seeking to portray in the world.

In the same way, when a woman wears a covering on her head, she is *outwardly portraying the spiritual significance of her submission to her husband and to God*. It is not demeaning or burdensome, as some may think. On the contrary, it is a great opportunity to point folks to her head, who can point them to his head: Jesus Christ. She is clothing her glory for the glory of her Saviour; much in the same way her Saviour clothed His glory while on earth, to glorify His Head: God the Father.

Shaven Or Shorn

I would like to discuss a portion of this passage that I have not touched on, as of yet. We have seen it, read it in context to the “head,” but I believe it is important to bring to light some things. Far too often people skim over it, rather than meditate upon it.

“But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her **head** uncovered dishonoureth her **head**: for that is even all one as if she were **shaven**. For if the woman be not covered, let her also be **shorn**: but if it be a shame for a woman to be **shorn** or **shaven**, let her be covered.”

As you can see, I have now highlighted “shorn” and “shaven” in green. Let us define these two words: (**definitions taken and adapted from [www. merriam-webster.com/dictionary/.](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/))

1. **Shaven:** to sever the hair from (the head or another part of the body) close to the roots
2. **Shorn:** to have cut or clipped (as hair or wool) from someone or something; *also* : to have cut something from <*sheared* a lawn>

Now that we have defined these two words, let us look again at the passage:

“But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her **head** uncovered dishonoureth her **head**: for that is even all one as if she were **shaven**. For if the woman be not covered, let her also be **shorn**: but if it be a shame for a woman to be **shorn** or **shaven**, let her be covered.”

It seems to me that this is what the apostle was trying to make clear: *“Any woman praying or prophesying, without covering her head (where her hair grows), dishonors her head (authority figure): for, it’s just as shameful as if she had shaved her head. If she isn’t covered, let her also have her hair cut (like you cut a lawn/shear a sheep/cut a man’s hair): but, if it’s shameful for a woman to have a shaved head or short hair, let her be covered.”*

But, let us just look at it in a way that has been presented to me before; and, actually, how I used to think.

“Any woman praying or prophesying, without covering her head (having long hair), dishonors her head (her authority)...”

But, wait! Let us take this thought all the way through the rest of this portion:

“Any woman praying or prophesying, without having long hair, dishonors her authority: for, it’s just as shameful if she had shaved her head. If she doesn’t have long hair, let her also have her hair cut: but, if it’s shameful for her to have a shaved head or short hair, let her have long hair.”

That does not seem to make sense to me. How can her *short* hair get cut into *short* hair? How is it that if her hair is *already* short (not having that natural covering—long hair), and she does not have *long* hair...That she is to have her already *short* (shorn) hair cut *short* (shorn)? That causes me to scratch my head.

The most logical and reasonable, (grammatically and contextually), answer that I can receive from this passage is: that Paul is definitely *not* referring to her naturally, God-given, long hair as **the** covering; but rather a piece of garment that she uses as **the** covering. I cannot conclude otherwise. To try and make fit the idea that he is referring to her long hair only causes confusion to the text.

It is also noteworthy to mention that this covering of which Paul refers, is something you can take on and off at will. As he speaks to the man and the woman, he tells the man to not have his head covered when praying or prophesying...So, does that mean he is not to have long hair when he is praying or prophesying; and, that when he is through doing those two things, he can go back to having long hair? See how silly that seems to sound, when you use that reasoning? However, it is not so silly to say that Paul is speaking of a piece of cloth that covers the head. For, a “prayer veil” as some refer to it, is something one can take on and off at will. Jewish men *still* use the prayer veil when praying or prophesying: simple research will verify that claim. Just visit the local religious bookstore, and you may indeed find that they sell them.

Why is this subject so hotly debated? Why such confusion? Why would it cause such scorn amongst believers, when approaching this part of Scripture, to share what seems to be the obvious understanding? Well, I believe there is one source: Satan.

Satan is the lord of lying. He is the author of confusion. He is the author of rebellion. He is the anti-Christ. He is always against anything the Lord sets in place. If the Lord is for it, Satan is against it. If God says it is so, Satan says, “Is it so?”

At the end of this portion of Scripture, Paul says:

“But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.” (v.16)

Is Paul now contradicting everything he just said? Is he saying, *“Well, if anyone has an issue with women covering their head, and men not covering their head, don’t worry about it. It’s not a custom to be followed in the churches of God, if people have issue with it...”*

Umm, excuse me? Why would God spend that much time to explain how men and women are to cover or not cover, only to say: *“Don’t do it if you don’t like it?”* Have you ever known God to excuse you from a command you did not like?

To say that if anyone has issue with women covering their heads/men not covering their heads, just ignore what was said in the last fifteen verses, is ridiculous. What *is not* ridiculous is to see that Paul is saying that if any man be contentious, to not behave that way: because the Christians have no such custom—no such manner of living/behavior. There is no custom of men covering their heads while in prayer and prophesying, nor for women to uncover while praying or prophesying. (Even if it does seem that many Christians are contentious, just read all the admonitions in the New Testament regarding what kind of behavior in which we are to conduct ourselves. Just because someone does something, does not make it righteous. Only God establishes righteousness.)

Uncovering The Head

Recently, my husband and I were discussing this matter. It is not one that we see as a matter of division. However, many people *do* see it as a matter of contention. It seems that every one is hotly debating whether or not a woman should cover her hair. Yet, I find it interesting that no one is hotly debating a very significant part of this passage: that of the man *uncovering* his head.

To me, as I muse upon this whole doctrine, I find that the focus has always been that of the *woman*. No one wants to be seen as subjecting women to something “derogatory.” No one wants to be found “guilty” of “subjugating” women. With all the “women’s lib” stuff going about in the world, it *is* understandable. Who wants to even touch that monster?

However, I have not heard *one person* debate the issue of a man keeping his head *uncovered* for prayer and prophesying. I do not see men or women arguing for the right of men to keep a hat on while they pray or preach. *In fact*, I do not know of any men who *would* wear a hat or prayer veil during prayer or prophesying! Why is there no argument on this account?

Are there any men who are getting all riled up over *not* being able to cover their heads in worship? Well, the only men *I* know who would be bothered by *not* being able to cover their heads, are those who are not of the Christian faith; or, those who are confused. We know that many Jewish men were coming to know Jesus Christ as their Saviour, back in the first century. There are *still* Jewish men coming to know Jesus Christ as their Saviour, today!

One of the notable practices of these Jewish men, were and are, the practice of covering their heads in prayer and prophesying. Yet, that is not the way of the saved man! He is the glory of God, thus not needing to cover his head.

Why would Paul then need to tell *men* not to be contentious about the matter? Was it because they did not want to see their women with their heads covered? I believe it had more to do with the practice of the men covering *their* heads.

I believe Paul was instructing the men not to fight over the matter. Men were not being disrespectful to God by uncovering their heads. I am sure this new practice was one of great liberation, but also of contention. For, as you read in other places in the epistles, there were folks going around trying to keep believers under the law (circumcision, observations of the Sabbaths, etc.), and other practices of the Hebrews, as part of their salvation. Many, many

times, Paul had to correct the churches that were getting carried away with that sort of “legalism.” See *Galatians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Timothy*.

I do believe that there is a reason it was, and still is, such a hotly debated practice (regarding the women). Why? I believe it is because Satan is trying everything in his power to undermine the glory of God, and reap it unto himself.

Satanic Pride

We all know that Satan's downfall was pride. He wanted, and still wants, to be as the MOST HIGH. He left his post as a *covering* cherub. He no longer was content with how God made him, or why God made him. He wanted more. He wanted honor that was not his to have.

“Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy **covering**, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that **covereth**; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O **covering** cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.”
(Ezekiel 28:11-19)

He is no lover of mankind. He knows why man was made, and how. Man was made in the image of God: for His glory, and His good pleasure. Any way Satan can corrupt, he will...And does.

Why was man created?

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.” (Revelation 4:11)

Also, as seen in previous verses, man was created in God's image.

Satan was created to be a covering. He also *had* a beautiful covering. He was beautiful. Yet, he allowed his beauty to corrupt his mind, forming pride within him. What better way to pervert God's establishment, than utilize the very corruption to corrupt mankind, with which he corrupted himself?

Having men cover their heads, and women uncover their heads, is a successful way to pervert the *visualizations* of a God-honoring order. For, if the Scripture is true, angels are watching. God is watching. The world is watching. Christians are watching. If what they see does not picture God's design...Are they then seeing *Satan's* design?

Satan wants to shine. Satan wants to rob God of His glory. What more productive way to tarnish God's glory, than to have men be contrary to God's design? One of those ways, is to have men cover their heads in prayer and prophesy. That is the *exact* practice in which "religious" men engage themselves.

To have women *uncover* their glory, would be to do the same as did Satan. He *uncovered* himself, in order to reap praise unto himself. He wanted, and *still* wants, to deflect from God the glory He is due, and gain it for himself. When women uncover their glory, their hair, they are deflecting from God the glory He is due, and reaping it unto themselves.

Just as God had established times when the glory of the angels are shown, there are times when the glory of the women are shown. Prayer and prophesying are not such times. Is a lady sinning, by covering her hair? Is it shameful? Why would someone be offended to humble themselves before the Lord, and allow *His* glory to shine?

Satan is the master at confusion. God is not the author of it. What more corrupt way to mar the image of the glory of God, to mar the image of Christ and the Church, than to do so with how men and women dress (or undress) themselves? Satan must be enjoying the havoc he is making amongst the creation that God so loves.

Nowadays, at least in the "modern" world...(I often wonder, did people of the past think of themselves as the "modern" world...)...Asking men to *uncover* their heads during prayer or prophesy, seems to be a moot point. I have yet to run across a church, or any function that involves those two activities, whereby the men have to be encouraged to remove hats or prayer shawls. In fact, it is quite the opposite! It seems *instinctual* for men to remove any hats they may be wearing, when someone goes to prayer, or to preach.

There *are* "Hebrew Roots" congregations, in which men practice covering their head for worship. However, the Scriptures *clearly* speak against it. They are being contrary to the Bible. To do such a practice is not clearly depicting the glory of God, as God so desires. In fact, Paul confronts any men who would contend with him regarding the matter:

"But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God." (1 Corinthians 11:16)

Aside from groups of people, meeting in the name of the Saviour, who worship contrary to the Bible, the standard has been clearly delineated in the Bible. Men, keep your heads

uncovered when you pray and prophesy. Women, keep your heads *covered* when you pray and prophesy.

Pride seems, to me, the issue at hand. I am not surprised by it. Pride was Satan's downfall. Pride is any person's downfall.

“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.” (Proverbs 16:18)

Satan enjoys causing confusion and corruption. He is the author of it. If he can corrupt the churches of God, he has been profitable.

I know some folks will think that I am making a bigger deal than is necessary. However, I must politely disagree. It matters to me to follow the will of God, which is His heart's desire. I may struggle with always following His heart, but my desire is to be perfect in my walk.

Therefore, when I saw that the Lord was telling me, plainly, that I was to cover my glory to give Him glory, I complied. What am I losing? Again, is it shameful to cover? I think not.

I understand, though. There is pleasure to be had in “doing” one's hair. It is “fun” to color, cut, and style. It is *very* pleasurable to receive the praise of people, when they see how lovely/stylish our hair is.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with being lovely. Yet, there is something *altogether* wrong with vanity. I believe a woman's heart is made manifest, when she chooses whether or not to cover her hair.

Remember, Satan *used* to be a very prominent cherub in God's kingdom. He was astoundingly lovely. He was garnished with many a fine gem, and had a beautiful array of musical pipes. He looked lovely, and sounded lovely. God made him that way.

Yet, in the presence of God, he was *not* to outshine his Creator. However, he wanted to be like the Most High...Shine, shine, shine...Receive glory that was meant for God alone. Pride took root in his heart.

I do not know about you, but I do *not* want to be associated with Satan. I do *not* want to imitate him in *any* fashion. So, again, if I am to cover my God-given glorious locks at the appropriate time(s), for the glory of the Father, I will gladly obey.

Cultural Relevancy

I am sure that there are folks out there, who are/were just as ignorant as I about the matter. It was not until I opened my heart and mind to the idea that I could be wrong on my understanding, due to lack of proper study, that I was changed. I had to simply be willing to be wrong, and study the issue at hand.

Due to proper study, I am thoroughly convinced that my understanding is now corrected. I now see that it is improper for men to cover their heads when praying or prophesying. I now see it is right for women to cover their heads when praying or prophesying. I thank God for showing me the truth!

There are some folks that would see this practice as legalistic. Indeed, it *would* be legalistic, if it were seen as a way to maintain or earn salvation. However, it is wholeheartedly *not* such a case! It is a matter of living right in the eyes of God, our Heavenly Father.

Will God still hear the prayers of those who pray, when contrary to this practice? The answer is "Yes." There is no place in this passage, or any other to my recollection, that indicates that prayers are hindered. However, I *do* see God setting a practice that He says is right, and a picture of submission, that He wants His children to practice; just as there are other practices God has said He wants the saints to observe.

Pride, however, comes into play, when folks choose to be *willingly ignorant*. They *choose* not to hear. They *choose* to be their own judge. They *choose* not to be open to God's ways.

It is the flesh's nature to not want to be told what to do. It is the flesh's nature to want to be its own judge and jury. It is the flesh's nature to be contrary to God.

“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”
(Galatians 5:17)

When we choose to yield ourselves to the Father's will, we see that His commands are not grievous. We see that His ways are higher, and far better, than any we can conjure up on our own. We see that though it is contrary to the culture of the day, reasoning of men, and even "Christianity" today, it is blessed to walk in His ways.

God did not call His children to blend in with the world. He has called us out of it. He did not call us to mimic the ways of the world, so as to make it less offensive to reach them with the Gospel. No, He called us to a higher way: one that would be seen as peculiar.

“But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you. Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.”
(Titus 2:1-15)

When we reconcile our minds and hearts to be aligned with Christ’s heart and mind, we will be willing to obey whatever He may ask of us. We do not mind being seen as peculiar. Though we may struggle with feeling strange around others, we learn to let it go and appreciate being precious in God’s sight.

Releasing pride, we receive blessing. What purpose does pride serve, other than exalting self? It does not please the Lord; it pleases the flesh.

This matter of covering the hair, or uncovering it, may seem antiquated in this country of ours. Though the ladies of the past *did* indeed cover their hair: with bonnets, hats, snoods, etc.—that practice is seen as *cultural*. I have to say, it is *cultural* in other places for men to *cover* their heads; yet, we would frown upon that practice for Christian men.

These days, it is normal for women to have a career outside the home. It is normal to send children to daycare, while the mother earns a living. There may, or may not be, a father. There may be two mothers. There may be two fathers. There may be a biological set of parents, and /or stepparents. There is quite the hodge-podge of families. Yet, it is culturally-relevant today.

These days, it is quite normal to see women and girls wearing clothing that conforms to the shape of their bodies. They may, or may not, have a blouse/shirt/sweater, that covers their bottom. The pants/leggings they wear over their legs, are no more loose than a pair of stockings. Even men wear “skinny jeans.” Tops may or may not show cleavage. Tops may or may not be skin tight. Many tops, though, give “peeks” to what is underneath...Purposefully. Tops may or may not show the abdominal area.

Bikinis, bathing suits, and swimwear are no more than waterproof/non-waterproof underwear. One may wear them as every day wear. Skirts and dresses have slits up the thigh, front, or backside...Take your pick; seeing the thigh when sitting or standing is prone to happen. Many dresses and skirts, these days, are made to accentuate the female body in a mildly to a downright obviously seductive manner. These practices, too, are culturally-relevant.

These days, it is quite normal to get married with the notion that there are “non-negotiables.” This idea means that if someone does something bad enough, you are out the door. Divorce is the option then. Oh, and you can choose what the non-negotiable sin is. This practice is culturally-relevant.

These days, it is quite popular to have “me” time. If mothers/fathers do not have their girls/guys nights out, whoa boy! Momma/Papa may snap! They may be irritable, grouchy, depressed, frustrated, and so forth. It is the culturally-relevant thing to do these days.

These days, it is quite normal to see a two-headed family. Or, it may be that the woman is the boss. It is frowned upon for a woman to practice Biblical submission, and for a man to practice Biblical leadership. It is considered proper that both lead the family, that both have careers, that they have successful careers before considering children (and even having children can be completely taken off the table); that the man obeys the woman...These actions are all culturally-relevant.

It is typical to see couples shack up together. I know, because that is what we did; much to our shame. It is typical to see couples avoid the covenant of marriage, but yet seek the fruit of it. It is normal to date multiple partners, which may include physical touches only meant for a spouse. All these things are culturally-relevant.

These days, it is normal to show pride: in your nation, in your family lineage, in your career/job, in your body, in yourself. It is typical to put man/woman on a pedestal. People have become our inspiration(s). Do not believe me? How many of us have been guilty of having posters on our walls of singers/actors/philanthropists/do-gooders...Or, how many get excited when a sports star professes Christianity...Or, how about when an actor/actress does so?

We are all guilty of idolatry, of *any* sin (be it outward or of the heart). It is typical to think we are self-sufficient, to the point of denying a need for God, save for those times we find ourselves completely dependent upon Him: illness, accident, finances, etc. It is normal to not admit that we *need* Him. It is normal to think of ourselves as *good*. Yet, the Lord made it clear that none are good, save God Himself. Yet, it is culturally-relevant to see the “good” in man.

The list continues. Most of what is culturally-relevant today, is completely contrary to being relevant with God. God does not care what the culture of the day is: He simply tells us what He expects from us, and asks us to obey Him. He says that if we love Him, we will obey.

Much of what Jesus Christ said to the house of Israel, was *not* culturally-relevant. When asked about divorce and remarriage, Christ plainly stated that if you divorce a woman, saving for the cause of fornication, you cause her to commit adultery. Any man who marries a divorced woman, commits adultery with her. Yet, the religious leaders were telling the Jews that a man could write out a bill of divorcement for any reason. Jesus said many times, “You have heard that it hath been said...” He was going against the culture of the day.

How is it any different for us? Do we not say, that God transcends time? He *IS*.

“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.” (Hebrews 13:8)

Therefore, we can trust Him. He never changes.

Is Christ completely incapable of knowing the future? Was He ignorant to the fact that times change on earth? Did He not understand that people would be different in the twenty-first century, compared to the first century?

Did He not know that pants on women would become popular? Did He not recognize that prices would skyrocket, thus “necessitating” women to earn a living outside the home? Did He not know that men would become jerks, thus justifying divorce? Did He not know?

These questions are insane. Truly, they are. What parts of the New Testament are cultural? Which ones are relevant today? Since the Apostle Paul wrote, in the same century, that men are to love their wives as Christ does the Church, I assume that that command is irrelevant today. After all, that command was written to the first century believer. We are now in the twenty-first century.

I also assume that we can do away with giving out of a cheerful heart. After all, Paul again wrote that piece...In the first century. He was not dealing with a plummeting stock market, an emerging one-world monetary system, and a housing collapse.

I will also assume that we need to stop encouraging each other with the Lord’s return. After all, time has continued, and now things seem just as they always have been. Paul must not have recognized the soon-to-be changing times.

With all these assumptions, I will assume with the same logic, that one must do away with the Gospel Paul preached. After all, he was dealing with ignorant first century people. Today, people are more refined and intelligent. They do not give heed to fables, myths, and/or legends. Science is today’s rule of thumb, and you cannot “prove” God’s existence in the first place, in regards to today’s science.

With this logic, of the head covering being cultural, I will assume that the Lord’s Supper is cultural, too. After all, it is discussed in the same chapter. I guess we can stop practicing it.

How is it, that someone can trust what Paul says about the Gospel that is said to save a soul from Hell, but they cannot trust what he says about the covering? How can they trust what he says about the Lord's Table, but not what he says just a few verses earlier? How can the Lord's Supper transcend time, but not the covering? What does the Apostle Paul, to the *Gentiles*, say to those who think themselves spiritual:

“If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 14:37)

My Plea

Could it be any plainer? I propose the issue stems from the heart being unwilling to submit. We may fool ourselves, thinking we are truly submitted. Yet, when something like the head covering issue arises, what is our first response? Is it to study to see if, indeed, this is an act the Lord desires from us, and if so, comply? Or, is it to look for a way out of doing it...*Surely, they are misunderstanding. Surely, they are taking it out of context.*

What if we are? What is the harm in sincerely studying it out? I do not regret so doing. The only time(s) I have issue with studying something to its fullest extent, is finding out I was wrong.

Maybe someone reading this piece of writing is on the fence. They do not want to be alone in their practice. They may or may not have the support of their husband. They may or may not have the support of their church, friends, or family. I understand. You have my deepest empathy and support.

I, too, was a loner in this journey. Yet, through seeking, I found support. I found ladies who understood...Who had been in my shoes. I found ladies who did not practice it, but were sympathetic to me. God *did* send support!

I do not regret going it alone. Truly, I was not alone. I had my Lord, and my husband. It drew me closer to them both. That time taught me *many* lessons, and showed me the true, deep friendships I had, or would come to have, in my life.

Did it hurt? Yes. Was I scared? Yes. Did I struggle with anger and frustration? Yes. Did I struggle with sin in my heart and lips? Yes. Do I regret covering? NO.

Since I started, my life has been the richer for it. I do not believe my head scarves, snoods, bandanas, and the like, hold any "magical" powers. I do believe, though, that my Saviour is pleased with me. I *will not* apologize for it.

Is there anything special about me? No. I am a sinner needy of His grace, just as everyone else. Coming from the pig pen, just as the prodigal son, I am grateful for that grace and mercy. My heart's desire is to bless my sisters, so that they do not experience the pain of neglecting opportunities to show the Lord that they love Him; more than they love themselves. I know that pain *all* too well. Every moment He gives me to show Him love, I pray I take it. I pray that this is an opportunity for you, too.

Perhaps there is someone reading this writing, wholeheartedly set against the practice...As well as many other things I said. Well, then. I only pray that you *wholeheartedly* study the issue, willing to be wrong, and God be right. I firmly believe that there is only one right answer to the issue; that this matter is not up for personal interpretation, or personal conviction. Maybe the color of the cloth you wear, but not the cloth.

I wish for you, dear reader, to be simply *willing*. I hope that you have read this far. I hope you are not so vehement against it that it boils your blood...Irrks you...Irritates you...Has you looking at us covering sisters with polite condescension. At the very least, I hope it humbles your heart to see from whence we gather this practice, and try to understand us. How can a covering offend so? I would sincerely ask yourself that question, as I did.

Then, hopefully, there are sisters reading this article that *do* indeed cover. Are you full-time, or part-time? (I know you will understand that question. ☺) I hope that what I have shared has encouraged you to continue! I pray it will help answer questions for those asking you *why* you do it. I know much of what I have shared, has been by receiving from other sisters. I thank the Lord for them in my life!

I hope for my fellow covering sisters, that you never let the practice “go to your head.” Yes, I purposely used that phrase. I feel it apt, considering the topic. ☺ Do not allow your obedience here, or in any area (and that goes for *all* my sisters: those who cover, and those who do not), cause you to feel superior to another. Remember, the only reason we are able to obey is because Jesus Christ shed His blood for us. If we received what we have *earned*, I will say it is *not* God’s respect. It is His condemnation.

I *am* passionate about this subject. It is more to me than *just* covering my head. It is about obeying my Heavenly Father, in whatsoever He may ask of me. It is about believing that God’s commands for the Christian transcends time...transcends culture...

Please, consider. Consider why *I* started covering my head; not because I am something fantastic, but because *God* is. Study the matter thoroughly, contextually accurate, alongside no other book or church decree/doctrine. Let God be the guide. Let the Holy Spirit teach you. He is not a warm, fuzzy feeling. He is a real person, that will clearly tell you what Jesus Christ has to say. He will never contradict the Bible. He may convict you. Do not mistake conviction with not being the Holy Spirit; do not confuse a “good feeling,” with Him, either. You will know that the Holy Spirit is leading you, when you are walking in line with the Word of God. It does not feel good with the flesh, for they are contrary one to another. But, in your soul, you will know it is right; and, He will enable you to follow the Lord, and speak to Him for you.

I love Him. I love you. This subject, though passionate for me, is not one that is *easy* to discuss. I could very well lose communication with folks that I love with all my being. In fact, I have already experienced that loss, in some ways.

Do I delight, feeling like the odd-ball? Do I take pleasure, feeling like the religious nut? No. Do I rejoice, knowing I am mocked, scorned, and ridiculed? In Christ, yes.

Do I desire to put an unnecessary burden upon my sisters? Do I desire to weigh them down with a religious practice that is no longer relevant? Do I desire to convert ladies to be just like me? No.

I desire to share the truth with them. I desire to unshackle them from Satanic lies and deceit. I desire to aid in the submission of the flesh to the Spirit. I desire to edify according to Truth.

What purpose would it suit, to have mini-me's? How would God be pleased with me, if I were to shackle my sisters with religious nonsense? How juvenile!

I would not devote so much time, energy, prayer, practice, study, and meditation, were I simply seeking a following. I have no desire to face my Saviour, having to answer for leading astray or burdening my sisters, with something He disdains. No, I do not want to hang my head in shame and suffer loss of reward.

It is about caring for my fellow sisters. I desire to see them enjoy this life God has for us, while on this mortal plain. I desire to help encourage them in enjoying the femininity of Biblical womanhood for the Christian lady, and using that testimony to shine the light of Jesus Christ into this dark world. I desire to see God's best for their life. I desire to have full fellowship with every one of you!

It is about caring for God's glory. Am I seeking to compete with Him? Do the angels see rebellion, or submission? Do I remind them of Lucifer, who is now known as Satan, or do I remind them of Christ's Bride? Does God see me complying out of a loving heart, or a heart that wants to check off a list of spiritual "do's and do not's?"

It is about caring for my husband. Am I willing to dress myself in such a way as to be a crown unto him? Am I presenting myself in a manner that brings him glory, or shame? Do I have a heart to esteem him above myself?

It is about caring about the lost. I desire to see them saved! When they see me, of whom do they think? Can they see a difference in me, compared to the woman of the world? Can they see my Saviour?

“Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall
be praised.”
(Proverbs 31:30)



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Renee is a keeper at home: who has been the blessed recipient of the gift of Salvation through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. By being saved by His precious blood; through her experiences in life; and constantly receiving His grace and mercy: she has become passionate in her desire to help her sisters in Christ live lives pleasing to their Lord and Saviour. She is just a sinner: saved by grace, living by the grace and mercy of Her Heavenly Father; thanks to her Marvelous Saviour, Jesus Christ.

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